

d) Remarks

The present application is a divisional of Application No. 09/899,188, filed on July 6, 2001. Claims 1-4 and 12 are presented for examination, with Claims 1 and 12 being independent. Claims 1-4 were restricted out of Application No. 09/899,188 in Paper No. 6 therein, dated December 13, 2002. Present Claim 12 is equivalent to former Claim 16 in the parent application and is identified as non-elected Species III, Fig. 5, recited in the election/restriction requirement dated May 22, 2003 in the parent application. Support for new Claim 12 can be found, inter alia, on page 15, lines 16-19 and page 20, line 27 to page 21, line 2, of the specification and Fig. 5.

The specification has been amended to properly complete the claim for priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment and favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the subject application.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents were provided in parent application number 09/899,188.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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